

the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

JAN • FEB 1996

The P-Minus Potpourri

Happy New Year! I hope you have made your hip-hop resolutions and that you live up to them all. My resolution is that I need to spend more time on my turntables because I love to spin and I regret that I am so bad at it! Wish me luck (and send me tapes for inspiration—hey, it's my birthday this month anyway!).

What's a New Year's article without a '95 Top Five? Unfortunately I haven't heard several of the bigger releases which came out in the last few months (so don't think that I'm ignoring them), but here are my favorites up to that point: #1 - **Mobb Deep**, *The Infamous* and **Raekwon**, *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx* (tied!); #3 - **Bomb Magazine's** *Return of the DJ*; #4 - **The GZA**, *Liquid Swords*; #5 - **Tha Alkaholiks**, *Coast II Coast*. My favorite soundtrack was for "New Jersey Drive," and my favorite EP was another tie between **Sacred Hoop's** self-titled tape and **Bored Stiff's** *Explainin'*. My favorite non-hip-hop vinyl was **Jawbreaker's** *Dear You* (on blue marble swirl wax!). There it is, my heart and soul bared to the world!

Now for the fun stuff—my creative, analytical, and occasionally scathing record reviews. I heard something about *Project Blowed* over a year ago, but since I was schooling in Missouri at the time I couldn't quite get my hands on this hot piece of Fresh Coast pie. **Aceyalone** and **Abstract Rude** had compiled *Project Blowed* as a 20-track testimonial that LA has one of the most creative and diverse underground scenes in all of the hip-hop world. Luckily for the world outside of LA, this album has been re-mastered and re-released on double vinyl so that everyone can get a couple greedy little hands on it. Take my word for it—do not miss this opportunity again. Acey and/or Abstract highlight nine of the album's tracks and Ab's crazy flow had me bug-gin' on every verse (I hope he never gives up this game). The **Freestyle Fellowship** are as "Hot" as ever (in their own very special way) as live jazz undulates in the background. **Tray Loc** changes up the pace with his brand of OG "pimp-hop," **Dolla Holla** rock all the old-school styles, and **Funky Trend** rips through a "Funky

Commercial Break." Just for the record, did **Coolio** completely steal all the beats and the hook for "Gangsta's Paradise" from **DK Toon's** "Solo is so Low," or are they best friends and everything's cool? Get back to me on that, will you? Acey, Ab, and **Rhyming Riddler** give us eight minutes of hip-hop bliss on "I Don't Know," *everyone* blesses the mic on "Heavyweights Round 2," and **C.U.E.** and **Ellay Khule** wake up everybody with "Narcolepsy." Don't sleep on this record again!

Leading off my singles review is **Capleton's** "Wings of the Morning" (African Star/DJ). Featuring **Method Man** and rolling over **Marley Marl's** "Symphony" piano loop on the remix, the two rude-boys flow to the maximum with Meth praising the "Selassie-high" and even making a plea for revolution. The b-side shines with a remix of "Tour" and a Meth-less ragga mix of "Wings...". **Total's** "No One Else" (Bad Boy/ Arista) is the follow-up to the smash "Can't You See." It won't be as B.I.G. without the notorious one, but the "South Bronx" sample and the nice verse by **Little Kim** will surely give the true heads something to smile about. **Kris Kross** is back in the game with "Tonight's the Night" (Ruff-house), proving that **Jermaine Dupri's** funk babies have finally grown up, and this first single to their third LP is a testament of their development. The laid-back album mix is tight, and the remix picks up the pace and adds a heavier bass throb. The b-side, "Niggas Don't Know How To Act," is a tale of the darker side of fame and street life, and how KK deals with the constant drama. Beat-wise, this could be a **Snoop** song (high end synth and all!) but it's still cool. **Real Live's** "Real Live Shit" (Big Beat) has a very dope Nas-sampled intro, but it's basically just a braggadocio record that says nothing but "I'm the dopest," so it doesn't really move me. On the flipside, "Crime is Money," the title says it all, and that story is as old as the first. Give **Larry-O** and **K-Def** some interesting storylines to go along with the quality lyrical flow and production and you've got a great record in the making.

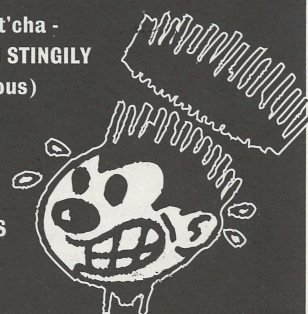
continued on page 6...

DJ Themba's Top Ten House

Fatius Walker DJs 510.310.5903

E-mail: themba@obelisk.berkeley.edu

1. What A Sensation - MASTERS AT WORK (Masters At Work)
2. Love Hangover - PAULINE HENRY (Import)
3. I'm Wit'cha - BYRON STINGILY (Nervous)
4. I Want You - ROSIE GAINES (Mo-town)
5. PHYLIPS TRAK (Basic Channel)
6. Find Our Way - KEY TO LIFE (Suburban)
7. Funky People - CASIO (Funky People Records)
8. Mind Fluid - NUYORICAN SOUL (Nervous)
9. Freedom - BLACK MAGIC (Strictly Rhythm)
10. Raw Grooves - KERRI CHANDLER (Large)



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DJ Stef; courtesy of Rowdy

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welcome information on any music available
on vinyl. Corrections, comments, complaints
and especially props are always welcome. No
portion of this publication may be reproduced
without written permission from the publisher.
Circulation 2,500 this month. Long live vinyl!

This issue is dedicated to Mr. C of RBL Posse.



**Vinyl X-Perience 2:
The Next Level**

Stockton, California

If you are an old skooler from the Fresh
Coast (west coast), and have anything
to do with being a hip-hop DJ, then you
have heard of **DJ Smash** from Stockton.

Smash was victorious in a battle be-
tween himself and **DJ Pause**, also from
Stockton. The event was held on No-
vember 25, 1995 at the historical Grow-
ers Hall on the outskirts of downtown
Stockton. The turnout was enormous
due to the reputation of these two valley
competitors. There was also a guest ap-
pearance by the incomparable **DJ Quest**
from San Francisco. Quest ripped shit!
Smash and Pause put on a spectacular
show which at times became very heat-
ed between the two—not just in battling,
but verbally. Although tension was pre-
sent, they gave pounds and much love
after the battle due to 'nuff respect.

I would personally like to give *supa*
powers out to DJ Quest, DJ Smash and
DJ Pause for their representation and
support of the valley's hip-hop scene.
Don't kill it, feel it! Peace!!!

- PISMO? DA PHUNKY PHANTOM

Contact Pismo? at 209.942.8581.

**Bay Area Underground
Vinyl Releases**

(from "Rasta" Cue-Tip's January 1996 Bay
Area report for *The Flavor* magazine)

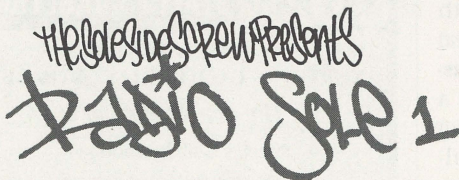
Oakland's **Mystik Journeymen** have re-
leased a super extended EP (11 tracks)
on their label Outhouse Records. This
EP features such standout cuts as "Never
Forget," "Body & Mind" and "Depths of
Survival." These two MCs have traveled
the world promoting their loyalty to the
West Coast while issuing their newslet-
ter *Unsigned and Hella Broke*. This re-
lease is also available on cassette. For
more info, contact 510.805.0619 pgr.

MCs **Iz** and **Hen** form the lyrical assault
weapons known as the **Dereliks**. Six
tracks of pure Bay Area hip-hop is re-
presented on this EP. These San Jose prod-
ucts have performed numerous shows
around the way and definitely be "...on
some other!" This release is also avail-
able on cassette. For more info, contact
Brandon at Low Self Discipline 212.838.
0627.

Popularized by the release of WB/Qwest
recording artist **Saafir's** debut release
"Boxcar Sessions," the **Hobo Junction** has
to be one of the strongest crews to drop
a release in 1995. Crew members **Rashi-
nel**, **EyeCue**, **Poke Martian**, **Big Nouz**, **J-
Groove**, **Jay-Z** and the Whoridas repre-
sent to the fullest on this four cut EP on
South Paw Records. The Whoridas' "Shot
Callin, Big Ballin" (produced by Saafir)
flips Vaughn Mason's "Rock, Skate, Roll,
Bounce" like never before. Those who
sleep will never peep! This release is also
available on cassette (w/ extra tracks).
For more info, contact 510.618.8781.

The busiest producer in the Bay Area
has to be **DJ Peanut Butter Wolf**. Following
the worldwide massive and continuing
success of his breakbeat LP "Peanut But-
ter Breaks," PB Wolf returns with four
releases! First, the "Peanut Butter EP" on
South Paw Records features six of the
South Bay's top MCs: **Encore**, **Dopestyle**,
Subcontents (from the **Undabombers** Klik),
Zest the Smoker, **Charizma** [R.I.P.] and
Homeliss Derilex's 50 Grand. The cuts on
this EP display mad MC skills over PB
Wolf's fat tracks. His second release
comes way of import. 2 Kool, an acid
jazz/hip-hop label from Europe, has re-
leased a four-cut PB Wolf Logo picture
disc featuring "Chronicles" (from the
Bomb DJ Compilation) and three remixes
from the PB Wolf breakbeat LP. This will
definitely be a collector's item. PB's third
and fourth releases come courtesy of his

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2. Street Vibes #2 EP - VARIOUS (Inter-Action)
3. Rough With the Smooth LP - OUTSIDE (Dorado)
4. Pure Arithmetic - FIRST PRIORITY (Gone Clear)
5. Jazbah Sceneries - JULIUS PAPP (Nervous)
6. I Care (Remix) - SOUL II SOUL (Virgin)
7. Things Will Be Sweeter - DEE C. LEE (Import)
8. Para Lennon & McCartney - A FRIEND FROM BRAZIL (Far Out)
9. What's All This About - LINDA LEWIS (Import)
10. Street Jazz - BEAT DEMONS (New Breed)

Check out Tom Simonian Thump at Succotash w/ "Rasta" Cue-Tip, Tuesday nights at the Up & Down Club and at Metro Jazz, Saturday nights at 111 Minna Street, both in San Francisco.

new independent label, Stonestrow Records. Rapper Charizma drops the single "Methods" and "My World Premier." Producer **Phanatik** drops his breakbeat LP rumored to be like no other! Guests include Homeliss Derilex's DJ **G-Luv**, DJ **Sid** (Stephan), DJ **Side A**, PB Wolf and myself on the cuts. Look out for a DJ break EP on Stonestrow by yours truly to be announced. For more info on all these releases, contact 408.631.3012.

The **Solesides** crew (**Blackalicious**, DJ **Shadow**, **Lyrics [Asia] Born**) bring us another release courtesy of **Lateef the Truth Speaker**. The single "The Wreckoning" features two mixes by DJ Shadow. Lateef has tremendous skills on the mic as well as being a champion freestyler. For info contact Zen at Solesides, 916.759.1304.

Lastly, but not least, we have the new local phenoms on the Bay Area set that go by **Various Blends (VBs)**. The VBs feature MCs **Friz-B**, **Rasco** and myself (**Eb.F**) laying various lyrical styles over solid concrete tracks. This single includes the cuts "Dopess" and "Chill As I Flex" (feat. PB Wolf on the scratch and cut). Dope shit (I wouldn't lie to ya). This release is also available on cassette (w/ extra tracks). For more info, contact 209.492.6831 or e-Mail JavierL03@aol.com.

- **EB.F THE "RASTA" CUE-TIP**

BLAHZAY BLAHZAY - Danger Pt. 2/Danger (Remix) (Fader)

It seems that the BLAHZAY crew has certainly found the key to success. Their debut single, "Danger," hit domes from coast-to-coast. With their latest versions, they prove that they can keep it comin'.

"Danger Pt. 2" features three guest MCs rippin' over an all-new track. Profile recording artist **SMOOTHIE DA HUSTLER** and **TRIGGER** join Blahzay Blahzay to create an unforgettable posse cut. You can still find that now-famous "hmm" running in the background. The hot one for the moment is the B-side remix for "Danger." The Premier-like track is on some hardcore dome-cracka sh*t.

The package is complete with instrumentals for each version. The industry must reckon with forces such as the dangerous Blahzay Blahzay crew. Something tells me that this is not another "one-hit wonder."

BAHAMADIA - Uknowhowwedu/True Honey Buns (Dat Freak Sh*t) (Chrysalis) Production: Ski of Original Flavor and Red Hand-ed/DJ Premier

This is truly flava beyond flava! There's no exaggeration there, kid. This young lady's voice already blows up the spot. And most know of the flows **BAHAMADIA** possesses anyway.

The single "Uknowhowwedu" contains those special ingredients that many joints these days are missing: phat lyrical content, butta tracks and the illest choruses. Yes, even the chorus stands above the rest. Peep how Bahamadia gives recognition to various Philly MCs... seriously clever!

And then there is that B-side! All headz know that **PRIMO'S** neva faded, aight. Well the flava doesn't stop. "True Honey Buns" contains all of the ingredients mentioned earlier. Bahamadia shows off her storytelling skills in this one. The scenario features the "attack of the killa groupie." Bahamadia does a great job of attacking this particular situation. As for the track, simply put, it could have been used for the latest Gang Starr LP...butta!

Bahamadia's debut album, "Bahamadia-Kollage," should be a sweet treat. Mark my words, the illadelphiat princess is simply untouchable.

MAD SKILLZ - Move Ya Body/Nod Factor "Remix"/Extra Abstract Skillz (Big Beat) Production: DJ Clark Kent/Nick Wiz/Large Professor

In "Move Ya Body," **MAD SKILLZ** proves that

he can freak it in any style. He continues to dish out those ill analogies. DJ **CLARK KENT** puts his magic touches on the track. The beat may seem to follow a wave of other '80s samples, but it will most likely have you on the dancefloor.

With help from DJ **SLICE**, **NICK WIZ** appears from the outskirts to bring us a lovely remix of "The Nod Factor." Peep how he freaks both the snares and high hats. The remix contains the same lyrics, but they flow nicely on this track.

After months of heavy buzz, finally "Extra Abstract Skillz" is available to the rest of us "hip-hop little people." The cut features guest vocals from **EXTRA P** and **THE ABSTRACT**. Extra P comes through once again on the boards. The song is short and to the point (which is not the greatest gift of Extra P and Q-Tip lovers), but no one is complaining.

MIC GERONIMO - The Natural (Clark Kent Remixes)/Lifecheck (Blunt Recordings) Production: DJ Clark Kent/Da Beatminerz

Hardcore rap fans from all over are getting used to the long lengths of time that the industry put us through for a release. **MIC GERONIMO'S** debut album, entitled "The Natural," proves to his fans that the wait was worth it. The title track features Geronimo flippin' smoothly over a lovely **MARK SPARKS** beat. Lo and behold, **SUPERMAN** commences to blow up da spot once again. DJ **CLARK KENT** steps on the scene with two remixes for ya. The first one caters to all smooth-type flow lovers. Hopefully, mainstream radio will use and abuse this version. The second Clark Kent mix is strictly for the streets. Guitar riffs accompany Mic Geronimo's vocals.

"Lifecheck" is the track where Geronimo goes for his. With the help of the extremely versatile **BEATMINERZ**, Mic gets open on a filthy, hostile Brooklyn Beat. The lovely thing about all of these versions is that they all have those beloved instrumentals. And, I have a feeling that the "Lifecheck" track will be used heavily this year.

- **THEORY**

NUYORICAN SOUL - Mind Fluid (Nervous)

Straight out the Nervous camp comes the return of **NUYORICAN SOUL** with "Mind Fluid." Short for "New York Puerto Rican Soul," the production team of "LITTLE" **LOUIE VEGA** and **KENNY DOPE GONZALEZ** aka **MASTERS AT WORK** deliver another soulful house selection. This 12" single features two mixes and a sureshot dub. Unlike the previous Nuyorican Soul release, "The Nervous Track," "Mind Fluid" is sort of jazzy/soulful rather than a pumping hard house track.

Masters at Work continue to stay on the cutting edge with another display of fat New York style house.

- **"RASTA" CUE-TIP**



Mix Tape reVIEW: Rolo 1-3, Pirate DJs

Cream of Beat - A Delicious Treat!



Let me tell you a story: On one of my first visits to San Francisco I went to a WU-TANG CLAN show and met one of the infamous PIRATE DJs. While fellow Pirate MIND MOTION was wreckin' it before the show I got to say "hi" to DJ IVAN. Well, I eventually ended up working with Ivan and he eventually introduced me to ROLO 1-3. I liked Rolo because he was one of the few local "celebs" who usually remembered, barely, who I was. End of story.

Rolo 1-3 has recently put out a mix tape, "Live at Cream of Beat," hosted by DJ Ivan who shouts the shouts and toasts the toasts. For those not in the know, Cream of Beat is a regular Pirate DJ showcase that pops up all over the Bay Area and it is definitely worth attending (but those door charges can get pretty damn steep!). This tape is a nice display of Rolo's irrefutable turntable skills as he effortlessly mixes R&B, dance music, reggae and dancehall (Rolo's specialty) with a barrage of dope hip-hop. Rolo drops a lot of old school in this mix: BEASTIE BOYS' "Paul Revere" into SPECIAL ED'S "I Got it Made" into ERIC B. & RAKIM'S "Eric B. for President." But he keeps his beats up-to-date with such jammies as B.I.G.'s "One More Chance," AZ's "Sugar Hill," and THA DOGG POUND'S "Big Pimpin'." A couple other plusses of this tape are the good sound quality and the fade-outs at the ends. The only drawback of this mix tape is that Rolo frequently cuts off the sound for crowd sing-a-longs (remember, this is a live tape), but on the tape it is basically just dead air unless you listen real closely. If you see this cassette sitting in your favorite record store, I recommend picking it up in support of one of the Bay's most prolific DJ crews, or at least for a taste of Rolo's incredible mixing skills.

- P-MINUS!

Get "Live At Cream of Beat" at Zebra Records, 475 Haight Street, San Francisco, 415.626.9145 or call the Pirate Line, 415.469.2081 and leave a message for Rolo 1-3.

InterVIEW: Melo-D

DJ Melo-D, a member of the powerful **Beat Junkies** crew, has recently been terrorizing the battle circuits, turning in stellar performances in two of the biggest DJ competitions of '95. He took second behind fellow Beat Junkie **DJ Babu** at the West Coast DMC battle and won the first-ever US Vestax competition, earning a trip to Japan for the World Vestax battle [which he won last December]. Here's what he had to say about DJing, battling and other topics:

Where are you from? Have you always lived in LA?

From Cerritos, about 20 minutes from LA. We're in LA County. I've lived here since I was a baby. It's my home turf. There's a mad school of DJs here too, which influenced me a lot. Like **Rhettmatic**, and he was influenced by **DJ Curse**, who was like for a while and in my opinion still is, the best DJ around this area. I mean, he doesn't compete or anything like that. Those guys all influenced me a lot. And then there's **JRocc**, who's the president of our crew (the Beat Junkies), he's just the funkier guy on two turntables I've ever seen in my life. Anytime you see him in a club DJing you'll be like, damn where's the 4-track at? Those guys gave me something to aspire to.

What's your most valuable record?

I don't really have a deep, deep collection, I mean I got a lot of crates but I don't

have a lot of the original records from when b-boying first got started and stuff. I'm a big **Pete Rock** fan, of course **KRS-One**, all the stuff I used to listen to when I was coming up before I even got into DJing. **Divine Styler**, stuff like that. I'd rather listen to good music any day, than you know, as much as I like DJing and improving my skills, the music is what got me there in the first place, so. That's what keeps me going, the music.

Is that how you got started, listening to records and wanting to play them?

Yeah, kind of. I always wanted to be able to mix records. **Curse** and **Rhettmatic** used to DJ the dances at my high school and they used to scratch back when scratching was pretty much considered barbaric (and a lot of times it still is), and that's what got me into scratching specifically. It blew my mind and I just wanted to be able to make sounds like that. And from that point on, I gotta give a lot of credit to my parents, cause they helped me out and were real supportive when I was like "I wanna get this thing called a turntable and blah blah blah." Ever since then I've been trying to do it on my own.

Tell me about your other side of DJing, the non-battle side, know what I mean?

I try to stay well-rounded. I'm a battle DJ but I'm also mobile and I do clubs on occasion. If you're a club DJ, you get in touch with all the hip-hop that rocks and it's just a different thing from scratching and all that. I see club DJing as another outlet, it's just another way to be a DJ. But of course, I practice my hard-up though.

Are you into producing at all?

I'm surrounded by producers, like **Babu** he's a producer, my friend **D-Styles**, he's also a very under-represented DJ and he's a producer also, he's so dope. With my schedule and everything I can't afford the time. If I'm gonna devote any time to music at all it's gonna have to be towards DJing and just practicing that. The other constraint, too, is that I don't have the money for a sampler and everything like that. There's a lot of things like that against me, but as long as I stay in tune with the scene, you know? I've always been into producing, I see it as a natural progression from DJing, especially if you have a dope collection. Maybe when I get out of school I'll get deeper into it.

You're still a student; how does DJing fit into your life and where do you see yourself headed DJ-wise later on?

As we're speaking I'm studying for a mid-term. Basically man, go to school, and that occupies most of my time. And then

TRC Top 10 + 1 Underground Sh*t

submitted by Peanut Butter Wolf

1. No Awareness - **DR. OCTAGON**
2. Toasted Marshmellow Breaks - **Q-BERT**
3. Hobo Junction EP - **HOB0 JUNCTION**
4. Funcrusher - **COMPANY FLOW**
5. Nickel and Dime - **ROB SWIFT/CRACKER JACKS**
6. Audio Sedative LP - **MANNISH**
7. Tru Dat - **PUPPETS OF CHAOS**
8. Got It Locked - **RUGGED SCIENTIST**
9. High Plains - **TONY DA SKITZO**
10. Braggin' Writes - **J-LIVE**
11. Keep the Art Divine - **ELEMENTAL/DA GRASS ROOTS**

For underground sh*t call Peanut Butter Wolf @ TRC Distributors, 415.692.2800.

I work part-time, so I'm real busy. DJing is definitely a big part of my life, I look forward to it every day. It's just a matter of what priorities supercede DJing. Some days I practice for an hour, some days I'll practice four or five hours. I'll always be part of it. I don't know if I'll have the time to be into it as much when I go do full-time work, but I'm in **Geto Baby Record Pool**, and I'll keep in touch with the music. Battling is a chance for me to show what I got, and maybe get recognition for doing something that I love, something that still blows my mind. I'd like to keep music in my life as long as I can.

Are you guys working on anything, the Beat Junkies?

We're gonna work on a compilation mix tape, we're still passing around the idea. My man D-Styles came up with the name, "The Hand that Rocks the Tables." We were gonna do 10 minutes each—me, Babu, D-Styles, and maybe somebody else from our crew, and it was gonna be all just turntablism. "Turntablism" is a term we labeled for the artform of DJing, just straight turntables. I mean, scratching, doubling, tricks and a little production.

How'd you first get started battling?

The first battle I entered was in a record store in LA, I won that but that wasn't too big. In November 1993 I won this local battle titled "Represent." Then there was the '94 West Coast DMC, and this year's ['95] DMC and Vestax.

Last year's DMC was only your third battle?

Yeah, I didn't do well in that.

I thought you were pretty nice.

Naw, man. I just didn't think I'd make it to the finals so I was totally unprepared. I was well prepared for the preliminary rounds but I just didn't have enough confidence in making it to the finals, so when the prelims were over I thought I was done. Then I found out I wasn't and I was like what am I gonna do, I was all excited. Anyway, I just ended up going up there and freestyling, which is why my routine on the video was so short, man. That was straight off the top of my head, I didn't even have the records I wanted.

I thought it was tight though. What would you like to see changed in competition?

To be honest, I just wanna see all the bullshit done away with, in terms of the politics and everything. As an example, I don't like how where you're from has an effect on the outcome. There's some east coast DJs that'll get up on stage and they scratch and do their thing, but I think a lot of the judges perceive east coast

DJs as superior and I don't know why. Maybe they're not hip to the new wave of scratching. If I were to go to New York for a big competition I'd be discouraged to do some of my scratches 'cause I know people wouldn't understand what I'm trying to do, where I'm coming from.

You mean like how DISK rocked it in the '94 USA?

Yeah, I think he got cheated. That was definitely the tightest scratching for that year. I'd like to see DJing judged strictly by skills and no other side factors. That's how DJing will advance. Like that new wave of scratching I'm talking about, it's discouraging for me sometimes when people don't understand it 'cause, you know, it's such an integral part of hip-hop, DJing.

Tell me something about your big win, man, the Vestax battle.

Pretty hype battle man. It was a Supermen-style battle, head to head, first round eliminations, the final was three rounds. **Symphony** almost beat me! It was a tight battle between us, but luckily that was a good night for me, I was feeling everything, so I got lucky and advanced to the finals. Ironically I had to battle another fellow crewmember, Babu, and that was as close as it gets. We were both rocking it, and I won it in the end.

What do you think is the challenge facing the top upcoming DJs nowadays?

Back in the '80s the DJs that were running things were **Cash Money**, **Joe Cooley**, you know, those guys, and everybody was like, "Oh, those guys are the hardest." And then **Q-Bert** and **Mixmaster Mike** and them, they took it to the next level, you know. The challenge for DJs now, it's a test to see who can take it to the next level after that. I'm wondering what's gonna be the next level of DJing, the next phase. To me it seems that DJing is kind of at a standstill right now. I think **Steve D** was pretty much the inventor of crazy juggling and doubling, you know, **Shortkut's** come with some stuff of his own, Babu's come up with some stuff of his own with scratching and juggling, they all got their own styles... but I mean nothing that's...

Revolutionary.

Yeah, exactly. Revolutionary. Something that brings on the next level. I'd like to be a participant in bringing that about. Although I can't say I'll definitely be a part of that, that's what I strive to do, that's what my crew strives to do.

- **TAEK KWON, THE CHILLSBURY DO-BOY**

You can reach **Geto Baby Record Pool** at 818.265.9532.

Soul Food DJ Family Hip-Hop Chart

submitted by Marty Smith, Oakland
510.729. 8087 • fax 510.412.0802

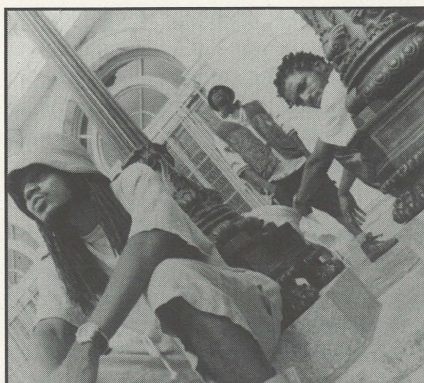
LC

1. 1 Respect - **THA DOGG POUND** (Death Row)
2. 2 Cold World - **GENIUS** (Geffen)
3. 3 Just Tah Let U Know - **EAZY-E** (Ruthless)
4. 5 Real Live Sh*t - **REAL LIVE** (Big Beat)
5. 8 Shot Gallin' Big Ballin' - **WHORIDAS** (South Paw)
6. 6 Westside Slaughterhouse - **MACK 10** (Priority)
7. 4 Too Hot - **COOLIO** (Tommy Boy)
8. 9 Metro Theme - **ALL CITY** (Armed)
9. 15 New Day - **SOUTH CIRCLE** (Suave/Relativity)
10. 10 Leflah - **THE FAB 5** (Duck Down/Priority)
11. 11 Fast Life - **KOOL G. RAP** (Cold Chill-in')
12. 12 East 1999 - **BONE THUGS N HARMONY** (Ruthless)
13. 7 Blah - **THE FAB 5** (Duck Down/Priority)
14. 17 Drink Wit' Me - **VELL BAKARDY** (American/Wild West)
15. 0 Drop - **THE PHARCYDE** (Delicious Vinyl)
16. 16 Exercise Your Game - **COOLIO** (Feat. E-40) (Tommy Boy)
17. 14 E-Z On the Motion - **Ghetto Concept** (Groove A Lot/Quality Music)
18. 19 Put Yo Mack Hand Down (Remix) - **JT THE BIGGA FIGGA** (Get Low/Priority)
19. 0 Land of the Skanless - **KAUSION** (Lench Mob)
20. 20 Whoa (East Bay Remix) - **BAD LT.** (Frontline)
21. 27 Extra Abstract Skillz - **MAD SKILLZ** (Big Beat)
22. 21 4, 5, 6 - **KOOL G. RAP** (Cold Chill-in')
23. 0 Break 'Em Off - **EIGHTBALL & MJG** (Relativity)
24. 22 One Night Stand - **5th WARD BOYZ** (Rap-A-Lot/Noo Trybe)
25. 30 Witch Doctor - **SELFISH** (Bank On It)
26. 0 Big Up - **DEFARI** (Immortal)
27. 24 Fades Em All - **JAMAL** (Rowdy)
28. 25 Good Times - **PCP** (Ichiban)
29. 28 East Side Rendezvous - **FROST** (Relativity)
30. 0 Strength of A.T.U. - **ABSTRACT RUDE** (Project Blowed)



...continued from page 1

I generally have trouble reviewing full-length albums because I fear that I won't be able to do a good record justice, so with that hesitancy now known, I will quickly run through some of the albums which have fallen into my hands. Aceyalone's *All Balls Don't Bounce* (Capitol) is a much better album than I had anticipated since I didn't feel the first single was very strong (it was redeemed only by the smashing, non-album b-side). My favorite tracks are the four that feature Abstract Rude (along with **Mikah-9** and **Peace**), but Acey does pull off several rocking solo joints as well. If *Project Blowed* didn't give you enough, this record continues the delightful journey through LA's hip-hop universe. The *Bay Area Playaz* compilation (Anonymous) will surely be labeled as a "gangsta rap" album, but this is the most diverse (in style and content) and enjoyable "gangsta" comp that I've had a chance to review. Luckily for me, only three of the tracks are devoted solely to bustin' caps (fast forward!), and the other twelve offer a taste of every available Bay Area flavor. The songs that got me poppin' were by **RBL Posse** [R.I.P. **Mr. C**—Ed.], **Hitman** (with **T. Love**, **Toe the Tagger**, **Mally Mal**), **Young Cellski**, **TRU** (with **Master P**, **Silk**, **Big Ed**, **King George**) and the **Get Low Playaz**. The first single, by the **Link Crew**, "The World In My Eyes," is the most radio-friendly and should turn a few heads with its smooth beats and intelligent lyrics. Sticking around in San Francisco for a minute leads us to **JT the Bigga Figga's Dwellin' in the Labb** (Get Low/Priority). One of my favorites has put together another album full of slow, thick beats, and once again JT puts *everybody* up on the posse cut tip on the songs "Scrilla,



The **BLACKHEARTED SKAVENGERZ** are featured on Guru's summer '95 Ill Kid sampler.

Scratch, Paper" (11-5, **Cougnut**), "Beware of Those" (**E-40**, **Celly Cel**), and "Representing" and "Bay Area Playaz" (a whole gang of fools!). On the production side I found some of the beats to be dull, but the consistently tight lyrics made up for that problem. One of the album's highlights is an excerpt from an incredibly smart and thought-provoking speech, courtesy of Dr. Alim Muhammed, concerning the economic implications of black men in the prison system—a must hear! And the final interesting note is that JT's potaaa, **Tray-B-Low** (R.I.P.), is wearing a sweatshirt from my old stomping grounds, the University of Missouri, in a photo in the album insert (well, I found that interesting).

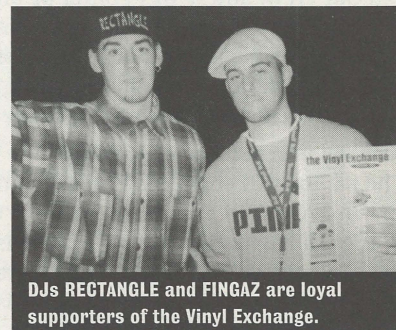
I've been sitting on a demo tape by the **Blackhearted Skavengerz** for way too long (sorry, G), and finally have a chance to comment on it. This group fits perfectly in the midst of the still-strong explosion of dancehall hip-hop and show great promise in this six-song tape. One track, "Quest for Success," appeared on **Guru's** Ill Kid Summer '95 sampler, and one of the vocalists, **Jahdan**, added his touch to the remix of **Smif n' Wessun's** "Sound Bwoy Bureill." My favorite tracks are "Point of View" and "Sounds from the Heart." If interested in the tape or seeing the Skavengerz perform, give **Gordon** "Big Ass Gord" a call at 718.927. 2012—he's the illest!

An acquaintance of mine is putting out a 'zine celebrating graffiti and political thought called *State of the Nation*. He's working on #2 right now so if anyone has anything interesting to say or any exciting graf to show off, send it to him: **Chris Quiroz**, 23291 Via Bahia, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. He's always looking for new ideas from new contributors, or just drop him a line and wish him a prosperous New Year.

DJ Fingaz Top Ten Hip-Hop

FieldSoulJerz • San Diego, Calif.
800.646.5016

1. **Mannish - MANNISH** (Correct)
2. **The Crooked Letter Eye - EYECUE** (South Paw)
3. **One to One - MISUNDERSTOOD** (Front Page)
4. **Recognize and Realize - BIG NOYD** (Tommy Boy)
5. **Summin' Gots To Give - ROYAL FAM** (Capitol)
6. **Danger Pt. 2 - BLAHZAY BLAHZAY** (Fader)
7. **Heads or Talez - THE MEXAKINZ** (Wild West)
8. **Sacrifice - GROUP HOME** (Payday)
9. **How Many Mics - FUGEES** (Ruff-house)
10. **Life Check - MIC GERONIMO** (Blunt)



DJs **RECTANGLE** and **FINGAZ** are loyal supporters of the Vinyl Exchange.

I really liked **Daniel Ladd's** article in the last issue about pressing one's own vinyl, and I would like to reiterate the importance of doing just that. Way too many good groups are sitting around waiting to "get signed" and wasting quality time doing so. Invest in your passion and dividends will return in some form or another. Sell your vinyl at every show or party in which you perform, and people will appreciate your self-determination. **Rasta Cue-Tip's** [Eb.F's] very own **Various Blends** should be releasing their vinyl next month, if that is any inspiration. And I would like to congratulate **DJ Stef** and **Cue** for sticking with this little 'zine for so long, and I thank them for giving me the opportunity to become a small part of the *Vinyl Exchange* family. For those who want to send me glorious birthday gifts, my mailing address has changed! It is now 923 Post St., SF, CA 94109. Happy New Year, everyone, and please, let's give **Kid Rock** another chance.

- P-MINUS

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VINYL wanted

WU-TANG CLAN WANTED: I am looking for the following vinyl goodies: "Protect Ya Neck" (the original 12" on Wu-Tang Records); Method Man - "All I Need"/"Sub-Crazy" (white label promo); The Genius - "Come Do Me." Also, on CD, I am looking for Ol' Dirty Bastard's "Brooklyn Zoo" (radio edit; must be the version you hear in the video). If you can help, contact John Book, 2502 W. Opal St., Pasco, WA 99301-3352. For you computer heads, e-mail YCAA10A@prodigy.com with information.

DESPERATELY lookin' for vinyl from 1991-92 (especially tracks like "Real Estate" by Cypress Hill, "T.R.O.Y. (Reminisce)" Pete Rock & CL Smooth, "Here It Comes" MC Serch. You get the idea.) Strictly east coast vinyl. Also I got the phat quality 90 minute tapes for ya. Call DJ Boo Boo 212. 946.1337 (voice mail, lv. message).

ZIMBABWE DJ Killian Mesikano aka DJ Pago, a club DJ looking for help from record labels, club DJs, DJ pools to send him vinyl & tapes. Spins rap, R&B, ragga. Music is hard to get in Zimbabwe—please help: DJ Pago, 626-191 Close, Budiro 1, Harare, Zimbabwe, Africa.

ATTENTION: Free airplay on Univ. of Oregon's college radio station KWVA 88.1 FM. Send all demos etc. to "Hip-Hop Don't Stop," KWVA 88.1FM, P.O.

Box 3157, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. Representing hip-hop to the fullest!

TECHNOFIEND seeks anything by Juan Atkins (Model 500, Cybotron) and Derrick May. Also looking for Patrick Crowley, Detroit techno compilation LPs/mix tapes, especially the "Area Code 313" compilation LP. Michael Heath, P.O. Box 427072, San Francisco, CA 94142.

I WANT VINYL. I'm looking for any 90s rock/alternative and rap/hip-hop vinyl. Please answer ad via ground mail: Nick Batyko, 103 Chaucer Court, Moon Twp., PA 15108, or e-mail: DJSpice1@aol.com.

BREAKDANCE ERA (81-84) We're "Lookin' For the Perfect Beat" and others: "Clear," "Search & Destroy," "Planet Patrol," etc. So all you "Buffalo Gals" and "Space Cowboys" round up your old LPs and 12" singles and let's keep this "Planet Rockin'!" J & T's Ole Skool, call 916.427.1501, fax 916.391.3032.

LOOKING FOR Special Ed's "I Got It Made" and "I'm the Magnificent," Ultramagnetic MC's "We're Ultra" and D-Nice's "They Call Me D-Nice" 12" singles & Superbreaks Vol. 1-5. Call Dean at 310.809.6560.

LOOKING FOR BDP's "Jack of Spades" 12", Pete Rock's "Mecca & the Soul Brother" (domestic) LP, De La Soul's "Plug Tunin'" 12", MC Lyte's "Cram to Understand" 12", and Audio Two's "Spoiled Milk." Call Albert P. 510.865.7037.

LOOKING FOR Ultramagnetic MC's "Critical Beatdown" LP, School of Hard Knocks LP, any Gang Starr (1st two LPs and their 12"s), "Code of the Streets," Nice & Smooth's "More and More Hits" and "Skill Trade," BDP's "By Any Means" and "Sex and Violence" LPs and "Jack of Spades" 12". Call Frank at (pager) 415.739.3430.

LOOKING FOR any Ultramagnetic MC's vinyl on the Next Plateau label (12"s and the LP). Also any promo items from Ultra or Organized Konfusion (hats, shirts, hoodies, etc). Live videos, radio freestyles, live tapes, pretty Much anything from these two groups. I will buy or trade for this stuff. Dan Ladd 401.294.4873.

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Campus Center in Los Altos Hills, CA. LPs, CDs, t-shirts and more! 9 am - 4 pm, \$2 donation at door. Call 415.949.7099 or e-mail kfjc-publicity@wiretap.spies.com.

KALX 90.7 Berkeley SPRING '96 RECORD SWAP Sunday March 10. Soul, funk, jazz, hip-hop, punk, metal and more! Pauley Ballroom, ASUC Building, UC Berkeley campus.

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MISCELLANEOUS

NAZ RECORDS, an independent record label, is looking to sign talented R&B and rap artists. If interested, send demo, name, telephone number and B&W photo to Naz Records, 5301 Diamond Heights Blvd., Suite A, SE, CA 94131.

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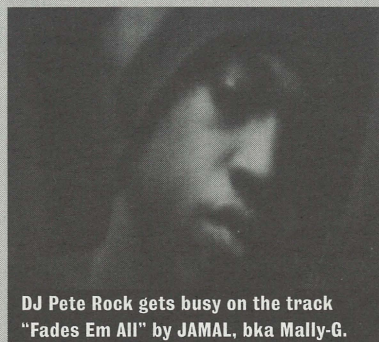
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Head Knods of the Month

Top Ten Hip-Hop

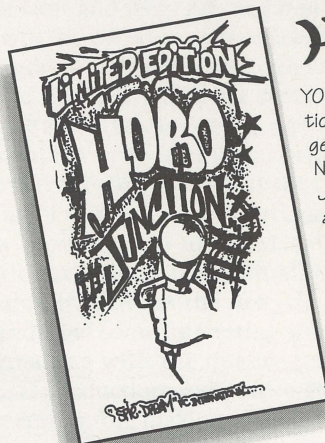
Submitted by Theory (713.415.3292) & Grinch (713.723.5768), Houston, TX

1. Microphone Master (Dome Cracker Remix)- DAS EFX (Eastwest)
2. Uknnowhowedu - BAHAMADIA (Chrysalis)
3. Tha Realness - GROUP HOME (Payday)
4. Danger (Remix) - BLAHZAY BLAHZAY (Fader)



DJ Pete Rock gets busy on the track "Fades Em All" by JAMAL, bka Mally-G.

5. Fades Em All - (Pete Rock Remix) - JAMAL (Rowdy)
6. Freaky Flow (DJ Premier Remix) - SPECIAL ED (Profile)
7. Everything Remains Raw - BUSTA RHYMEZ (Elektra)
8. Only the Strong Survive - DJ KRUSH w/ CL SMOOTH (Mo' Wax)
9. The Nod Factor (Remix) - MAD SKILLZ (Big Beat)
10. Summin' Gotz to Give - ROYAL FAM (Capitol)



Hobo Junction EP

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CORRECT RECORDS

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Single Jive U the Mann/Mannish - Mannish (Contact Kevin or Nu-Mark at 800.851.8249.)

DEF JAM/RAL

Single Welcome - Erick Sermon

ELEKTRA

Single Everything Remains Raw - Busta Rhyme

IN-A-MINUTE

LP III Mannered Playas - I.M.P. (III Mannered Posse)
Maxi Sampler N.Y. Tapes & S.F. Tapes - Just Ice (production by KRS-1, O.C., Prince Ice)

MERGELA/SOLAR

Single Mirror, Mirror - Smooth B b/w Runnin' - 2Pac & Notorious B.I.G.
(from the One Million Strong album)

NERVOUS/DOG

Single Powerful - Powerhouse

NERVOUS/SORTED

Single Wimmin - Acid Cowboys (produced by Jazzy Nice and Mitch Moses)
Single Hypnotizin' - Winx

NERVOUS/WRECK

Single Must Stay Paid - Broadway (Produced by KRS-One, B-side by Diamond.)

OFFICIAL

EP Funcrusher - Company Flow (Call 212.539.3722.)

OUTHOUSE

EP 4001 - Mystik Journeymen (Call 510.805.0619.)

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Single The Wreckoning - La-teef the Truth Speaker b/w Latyrx feat. Lyrics Born
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WHITE LABEL

Single Killed In the Crap Game - Money Boss Players

WU-TANG

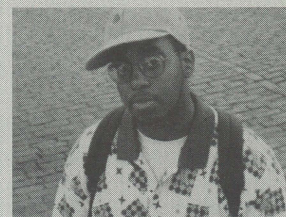
Single No Love Without Hate - Sunz of Man

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the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

Inside the Jan-Feb '96 issue:

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 - Battle Report
 - Bay Area Underground Vinyl
- 3 **reViews**
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 - 10 Shots of "Simonian" Soul
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Interview with Vestax
World Battle Champion
DJ Melo-D!

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Mystik Journeymen
release vinyl EP!

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